

The ABCs of FASDs

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) are estimated to affect as many as 40,000 infants annually in the U.S., or 1 in every 100 infants; thus, approximately 2% to 5% of schoolchildren may benefit from therapeutic interventions, including special education services. The prevalence of FASDs is comparable to spina-bifida and Down syndrome rates.



All children are at risk and should be screened



Behavioral health interventions last a lifetime



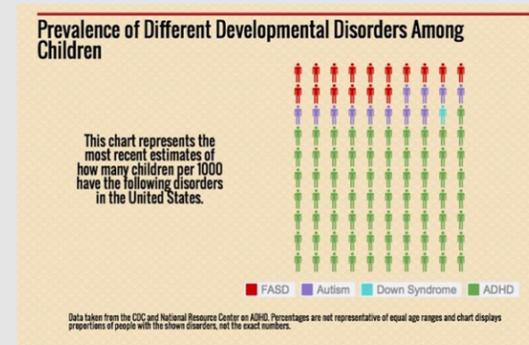
Clinicians can work with patients/ families to improve outcomes

Find the trusted approach and resource information you need in the FASD Toolkit: aap.org/fasd

Pediatricians and other health professionals can make a difference. Although FASDs can't be cured, early recognition and diagnosis-specific interventions can improve outcomes that last a lifetime. The FASD Toolkit is a one-stop clinical resource of compiled tools that range from clinical decision support and communication aids to practice management guides that support quality care in the medical home.



Screening Children for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders



Prenatal Alcohol Exposure. No safe amount. No safe time. No safe alcohol. Period. (NOFAS.org)

- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is a preventable birth defect, and a leading cause of developmental disabilities
- FASD occurs due to fetal exposure to alcohol during pregnancy
- FAS and FASD is a serious public health problem affecting as many as 10% of children (May et al., 2018).
- The effects of FAS and FASD are significant, lifelong, and costly.
- Early diagnosis and intervention improves long-term outcomes for children with FAS and FASD.
- Diagnosis of FASD can be challenging
- Prevalence of screening practices is not fully understood
- Stigma is a serious barrier to screening.
- Work needs to continue to increase public and health care provider awareness, prevent FAE, and improve screening and early diagnosis of FAS and FASD



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References:

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3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (N.D.). *Addressing fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) a review of the literature. Treatment improvement protocol (TIP) series 58*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Retrieved from <http://store.samhsa.gov/>